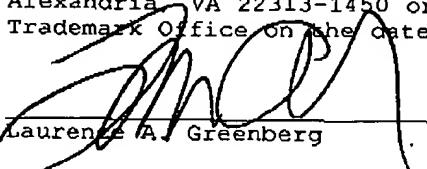


Practitioner's Docket No.: HEM 98/644 (HA-2494)

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AUG 07 2006

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Laurence A. GreenbergAugust 7, 2006  
DateIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/481,640 Confirmation No. 5923  
Filing Date : January 12, 2000  
Applicant : David Elliott Whitten, et al.  
Title : Variable Length Cutting Device  
TC/AU : 3724  
Examiner : Clark F. Dexter  
Customer No. : 24131

A M E N D M E N T

Mail Stop No-Fee Amendment  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office action dated May 5, 2006 kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.